

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL! DAY

2007

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of North Carolina stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults.

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 18, promotes the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, North Carolina is home to approximately 1.5 million youth aged 5 to 17; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, more than 70 percent live in homes where both parents work or where there is a single parent who works; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, North Carolina has the sixth fastest growing population of youth aged 5 to 17 in the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to the Afterschool Alliance, 93 percent of North Carolina parents are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 18, 2007, as "**LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL! DAY**," and commit our state to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Easley".

MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh on the twenty-ninth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.